

Tonight, Governor Haley Barbour will receive a national award sponsored by Governing Magazine as the nation's Outstanding Governor. The award dinner is scheduled in Washington, D.C. as the magazine announces its Public Officials of the Year 2006.

This marks the first time a Mississippi Governor has been so honored.

Governing magazine calls Governor Barbour "a figure of public inspiration at a moment of crisis" in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"Steady in a Storm" is the headline they put on the article.

"A strong leader who can communicate calm to the public ..."

"His own demeanor in public appearances suggested that the state would summon the will to rebuild ..."

"The goal is to build the Coast back like it can be, rather than simply like it was."

Let me just say, this is a tremendous honor and, Governor, we are proud of this positive recognition for you and the State of Mississippi.